

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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MEXICO AND TOKYO FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN WHALING OPERATIONS

REFERENCE: (A) LIMA 5622 (B) STATE 149499 (C) LIMA 6331

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION IN REF A, PARA 4, USG HAS NOT
RAISED QUESTION OF JAPANESE PARTNERSHIP IN PERUVIAN WHALING
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INDUSTRY WITH UAPANESE GOVERNMENT IN EXACTLY THOSE TERMS.
APPROACH HAS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE PERU TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION (IWC), AND JAPANESE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED
TO RESTRICT TRADE WITH PERU. DEPARTMENT WOULD, HOWEVER,
APPRECIATE ALL RECENT INFORMATION ON JAPANESE INTERESTS IN
PERUVIAN WHALING COMPANY, BALLENERA DEL KINKAI/NIPPON HOGEI.

2. THE ISSUE OF TRADE IN WHALE PRODUCTS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES WAS RAISED AT THE JUNE 1977 ANNUAL MEETING IN CANBERRA. A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED CALLING UPON MEMBER COUNTRIES TO TAKE ALL PRACTICABLE ACTION TO PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF WHALE PRODUCTS FROM NON-MEMBER NATIONS (REF B). JAPAN HAS IMPORTED WHALE MEAT FROM A NUMBER OF NON- WC COUNTRIES IN THE PAST AND ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION. (IN 1976, JAPAN IMPORTED 5,600 METRIC TONS OF WHAKE MEAT FROM CHILE, PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PERU, SOMALIA,

AND SPAIN.)

3. IN RESPONSE TO REF C, TOTAL IWC SPERM WHALE QUOTA FOR 1978 SEASON (IWC SEASON INCLUDES DEC 77-APR 78 ANTARCTIC SEASON AND ALL 1978 COASTAL SEASONS) FOR SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE IS 5908 WHALES: 4538 MALES AND 1370 FEMALES. HOWEVER, THE TOTAL QUOTA IS BROKEN INTO 9 DIVISIONS, AND QUOTA FOR DIVISION 9 IS ZERO. DIVISION 9 IS AREA IN WHICH PERU TAKES WHALES, BOUNDED BY EQUATOR AND ICE EDGE AND BY 60 DEGREES AND 100 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE. STOCKS IN THIS DIVISION HAVE BEEN DECLARED A PROTECTION STOCK. TOTAL 1977 QUOTA FOR SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE WAS 4791, AND ZERO FOR DIVISION 9. U.S. OFFICIALS SPOKE WITH DR. ABRAHAM REMERIZ LITUMA, PERUVIAN OFFICIAL AT IWC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANBERRA MEETING, AND EXPLAINED DETAILS OF SPERM WHALES QUOTAS.

4. THE IWC QUOTA FOR BRYDE'S WHALES (BALAENOPTERA EDENI) FOR ENTIRE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE IN 1978 IS ALSO ZERO, PENDING SATISFACTORY ESTIMATE OF STOCK SIZE. THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HAS CLASSIFIED THIS STOCK AN INITIAL MANAGEMENT STOCK, OR ONE WHOSE SIZE IS ESTIMATED TO BE MORE THAN 20 PERCENT ABOVE MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD. THE IWC NEEDS MORE DATA BEFORE IT CAN ALLOW FURTHER EXPLOITATION OF THIS STOCK, HOWEVER, AND ASKS THAT CURRENT CATCHES BY NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES NOT BE INCREASED. THE 1977 QUOTA WAS ALSO ZERO.

5. THE IWC QUOTA FOR SEI WHALES (BALAENOPTERA BOREALIS) IN 1977 WAS 1863 IN ENTIRE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND 353 IN AREA I, AREA IN WHICH PERU TAKES WHALES. AREA I IS BOUNDED BY ICE EDGE AND EQUATOR, AND BY 120 DEGREES AND 60 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE (BALEEN WHALES QUOTAS ARE DIVIDED IN 6 AREAS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE; SPERM WHALE STOCKS INTO 9 DIVISIONS). IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT JAPAN AND U.S.S.R. HAVE REPORTED TAKING 298 SEI WHALES

FROM AREA I DURING THE DEC 76-APR 77 ANTARCTIC SEASON,
LEAVING THE 1977 IWC QUOTA UNFILLED BY 55 WHALES. 1978
QUOTA FOR SEI WHALES FOR AREA I IS ALSO 353.

6. FIN WHALES (BALAENOPTERA PHYSALUS) ARE A IWC
PROTECTION STOCK IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND NO TAKE
IS PERMITTED.

7. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES MARCH-JUNE 1977 CATCH FIGURES,
AND REQUESTS SIMILAR BREAKDOWN FOR 1976.

8. FYI: THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS ANNUAL
QUOTAS FOR WHALE STOCKS ON THE BASIS OF THE DATA AVAILABLE
AFTER THESE QUOTAS ARE ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION, THOSE
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IWC MEMBERS TAKING WHALES FROM EACH STOCK DECIDE NATIONAL
QUOTAS AMONG THEMSELVES. IF PERU WERE TO JOIN THE IWC,
IT WOULD THEREBY PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN IWC DECISION-
MAKING ON QUOTAS AND OTHER MATTERS; IT WOULD ALSO BE IN
POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND PARTICIPATE IN IWC SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH IWC
DECISIONS ARE BASED. AS IWC MEMBER PERU WOULD JOIN
IN CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH OTHER MEMBERS TAKING SAME
STOCKS OF SEI AND POSSIBLY BRYDE'S WHALES UNDER IWC QUOTAS
TO DECIDE ON RESPECTIVE NATIONAL ALLOCATIONS. BRYDE'S
WHALES CAN NOT BE HARVESTED BY IWC MEMBERS IN AREA I,
PENDING STOCK ESTIMATES, BUT THE STOCK IS CLASSIFIED AS
AN INITIAL MANAGEMENT STOCK, AND PERU WOULD PROBABLY BE
ALLOWED TO TAKE CATCHES SIMILAR TO PAST YEARS, UNTIL COM-
PLETION OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS. THE STATUS OF THE STOCKS
WOULD THEN DETERMINE QUOTAS. SEI WHALES IN AREA I ARE
CURRENTLY TAKEN BY JAPAN AND THE U.S.S.R., AND PERU WOULD
NEGOTIATE WITH THESE TWO COUNTRIES FOR A NATIONAL ALLOCA-
TION. THE SPERM WHALE STOCK OFF PERU IS A PROTECTION STOCK,
HOWEAER, AND UNTIL THE STOCK INCREASES, NO CATCHES WOULD BE
ALLOWED. IN 1976, THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ESTIMATED
MALE SPERM WHALE STOCKS IN DIVISION 9 TO BE ONLY 32 PER-
CENT OF ORIGINAL SIZE AND 16 PERCENT BELOW MAXIMUM SUS-
TAINABLE YIELD. FEMALES WERE 54 PERCENT OF ORIGINAL STOCK
SIZE AND 28 PERCENT BELOW MSY. CHRISTOPHER

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